II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A project management method for optimizing Information Technology (IT) sites including skilled people groups and computer equipment to achieve a cost savings, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a project business need, the project business need being discrete and having a fixed duration;

defining a project technical need, the project technical need involving resources needed to realize the project business need;

determining, according to the project business need, a number of IT sites spread over a geographic area;

determining, according to the project technical need, the skilled people groups and computer equipment required inside the geographic area;

grouping and distributing, according to technical constraints, said skilled people groups and computer equipment over said IT sites inside the geographic area; and,

physically consolidating the IT sites of the geographic area to form a unique project geographic area for realizing the project business need by considering project cost parameters and geographic site location peculiarities.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of process and method standardization before the consolidating step, said process and method standardization step comprising the steps of:

listing processes and methods used in the IT sites as determined;

listing criteria allowing assessment of efficiency of said processes and methods in the IT sites as determined and according to the skilled people groups and computer equipment as determined, grouped, and distributed;

determining best processes and methods according to values of said criteria; and,

implementing the best processes and methods in the IT sites as determined.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of determining the best processes and method further comprises the steps of:

entering in a database the values of said criteria;

creating with a graphic user interface an evolutionary image of the values of the criteria; and

analyzing the image for determining the best processes and methods.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further repeating, after the step of implementing the best processes and methods, the step of listing criteria, the step of determining best processes and methods, and the step of implementing the best processes and methods.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further repeating, after the step of determining best processes and methods, the step of listing criteria and the step determining best processes and methods.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the IT sites are spread over more than one geographic area.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of determining, before the step of determining skilled people groups and computer equipment, a management organization for the geographic area.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising after each step, a step of updating a project management tool displaying a time for executing each step of the method of claim 1.